

PROCEEDINGS  
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*DICAEUM PROPRIUM*, NEW SPECIES  
(AVES; FAMILY DICAIEIDAE)

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Intensive ornithological collecting in the Philippine Islands during recent years has yielded a number of unusual birds, including a new genus and several new species. Two male birds collected on Mindanao represent a remarkable new flowerpecker which differs from all other known species of the family in the color of the underparts. This new species we propose to call:

***Dicaeum proprium***, new species

*Holotype*: adult male, USNM No. 519079, collected 2 July 1965 on Mount Mayo at Limot, Mati, Davao Province, Mindanao by D. S. Rabor.

*Diagnosis*: differs from all other species of *Dicaeum* in that the underparts are slate grey slightly washed with sepia, most noticeably on the chest and flanks. The chin, malar stripe, central abdomen, and undertail coverts are greyish white. There are concealed whitish tufts on the sides of the abdomen high up under the wings. The upper parts and the submalar moustachial streak are dark metallic bluish black, characteristic for males of the family.

The greyish-white malar streak outlined by the dark submalar moustachial streak is found in five of the six species of *Prionochilus* Strickland (= *Anaimos* Reichenbach) but in only one other member of the genus *Dicaeum* Cuvier. This new species belongs in *Dicaeum*, however, because the tenth primary is vestigial rather than relatively large as in *Prionochilus* and the bill is thinner and more abruptly pointed as is more typical of *Dicaeum*. The female plumage is unknown.

*Measurements*: two males, wing 62 mm (2); tail 26 (holotype), 29; culmen 11 (holotype), 9.5. Weight 10.2, 10.2 gm.

*Remarks*: *Dicaeum proprium* is unlike any other known flowerpecker. The moustachial streak is perhaps an indication of a primitive trait in the genus relating it to such species as *Prionochilus percussus* (Temminck and Laugier), although otherwise it differs completely in its drab underparts and lack of a bright crown patch. The presumably

primitive character of the moustachial streak, however, may point to a Greater Sunda Islands origin where most species of *Prionochilus* occur.

*Range:* known only from Mount Mayo, southeastern Mindanao Island, Philippines.